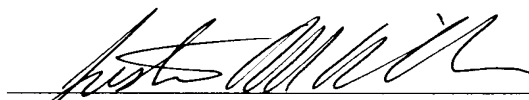


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Preliminary Amendment filed January 23, 2006 is currently considered non-compliant for failure to properly correspond to the originally filed claims. It should be noted that the present application is the US national stage of a PCT application filed in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 371. Applicants point out that there was an Article 34 Amendment to the claims in the international stage (submitted and date-stamped by the PTO on January 23, 2006 and labelled "Documents submitted with 371 Applications" in PAIR). Accordingly, the Preliminary Amendment filed January 23, 2006 properly corresponds to the later-in-time Article 34 claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment previously filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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